

**To:** Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Abrams, Dan[Abrams.Dan@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]  
**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 3:46:16 PM  
**Subject:** RE: CO mine inquiries

Thanks for the update Paula. Wanted others to know that a meeting is scheduled for 1:30 with the last 10 minutes open press. They are working on a call in number but it depends on the technology capabilities at the county commissioner's office. I plan to loop Paula and Rich into the conversation with the Bloomberg reporter.

One last question-will the RA be the lead speaker at 1:30?

**From:** Harrison, Melissa  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 10:59 AM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz; Mylott, Richard  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Lee, Monica; Abrams, Dan; Hull, George  
**Subject:** RE: CO mine inquiries

Rich-what time is the press conference today? Can reporters dial into it?

**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 10:41 AM  
**To:** Mylott, Richard  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica; Abrams, Dan; Hull, George  
**Subject:** CO mine inquiries

Please keep us posted as things progress today. It would be helpful to see any new statements that get put out. We will continue to direct reporters to you.

Dan Abrams is compiling press clips and will share with this group.

Liz Purchia

U.S. EPA

202-564-6691

202-841-2230

On Aug 6, 2015, at 2:30 PM, Mylott, Richard <[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov](mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks, I shared statement, will follow up.

**From:** Purchia, Liz

**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:30 PM

**To:** Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica

**Cc:** Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** RE: statement

[stephanie.ogburn@kunc.org](mailto:stephanie.ogburn@kunc.org) is looking to speak with someone from R8

**From:** Smith, Paula

**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:51 PM

**To:** Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica

**Cc:** Mylott, Richard

**Subject:** RE: statement

OSCs are working on that now. Meeting with them at 1:00 MST again.

**- Paula**

**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:47 AM  
**To:** Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica  
**Subject:** RE: statement

What will we say if asked how it was unexpectedly triggered?

**From:** Smith, Paula  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:46 PM  
**To:** Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica  
**Subject:** FW: statement

Updated desk statement. Out to press and Congressionals. Hoping to get more detail from OSC this afternoon.

**- Paula**

**For use...**

[kwyatt@ap.org](mailto:kwyatt@ap.org); [dschwartz@daily-times.com](mailto:dschwartz@daily-times.com); [bfinley@denverpost.com](mailto:bfinley@denverpost.com);  
[shane@durangoherald.com](mailto:shane@durangoherald.com);

### **August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release**

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained

approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.